

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2076

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 02507

E:O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH SATELLITE VERIFICATION PROPOSAL

REFS: (A). STATE 138541, (B). STATE 147644, (C). USUN
2411

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL A, PARA 5,
WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH FRENCH AT SENIOR LEVEL ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS IN PAST TWO WEEKS AND HAVE MADE QUITE CLEAR
US OBJECTIONS TO FRENCH PROPOSAL. THE LATEST APPROACH
WAS JUNE 15 BY AMBASSADOR LEONARD WITH FRENCH PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE LEPRETTEE, ACCOMPANIED BY SENATOR TAITTINGER.
AFTER LEONARD HAD COVERED OUR GROUNDS FOR OUR OBJECTION
TO THEIR PROPOSAL AS IT STANDS, THEY INFORMED LEONARD
THAT THEY WERE INSTRUCTING THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
TO RAISE THE PROBLEM DIRECTLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

2. THE SOVIETS HAVE, IN WORKING GROUPS AND IN CORRIDOR
CONVERSATIONS, MADE CLEAR THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE FRENCH
PROPOSAL. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, DISCUSSED TACTICS WITH
THEM.

3. WE HAVE UTILIZED THE UNCLASSIFIED TALKING POINTS
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PROVIDED IN REF B FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH,
GERMANS AND CANADIANS. THEY RECOGNIZE AND
APPRECIATE THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WE FACE WITH THE FRENCH
PROPOSAL. THE BRITISH AND THE GERMANS, HOWEVER, FEEL
UNABLE TO COME OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST THE FRENCH PROPOSAL
IN VIEW OF THE EC-9 STATEMENT MADE IN THE SSOD PLENARY
INDICATING INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL. THE ORIGINAL VIEW

OF THE GERMANS AND UK DELEGATIONS WAS THAT ONE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE PROPSIMPLY TO BE BLOCKED BY SOVIET OBJECTIONS. BUT EVEN IF THE SOVIETS TOOK THE ONUS OF BEING THE FIRST TO BRACKET THE FRENCH FORMULATION, CONSENSUS WOULD BE BROKEN UNLESS WE COULD GET THE FRENCH TO BACK OFF.

4. THE NEW FORMULATION PUT FORWARD BY THE FRENCH (REF C) CHANGES THE TACTICAL SITUATION. IN THE GERMAN AND UK VIEW, THE BEST SOLUTION NOW WOULD BE TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH TO FALL BACK TO THEIR INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR THE SYG TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES AND TO SUBMIT THESE VIEWS AND ANALYSES OF THEM TO THE 33RD UNGA. THEY HAVE INDICATED INFORMALLY TO US THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH TO FALL BACK TO THIS POSITION.

5. IN LIGHT OF THIS TACTICAL SITUATION, THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH FRENCH AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL HERE WITH THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL. WE CAN NOT ACCEPT ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT EXPERTS GROUP AS ENVISAGED IN THEIR LATEST PROPOSAL. WE STILL BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRY TO OBTAIN A CONSENSUS DOCUMENT. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR PROPOSAL VERY CLEAR IN OUR RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS AND NEW YORK. IN AN EFFORT TO
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RESOLVE THIS APPARENT IMPASSE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR THE SYG TO COLLECT VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES WITH THE INSERTION OF THE WORD "FEASIBILITY" BEFORE THE WORDS "FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE." WE WOULD AT THE SAME TIME MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS WORDING IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTION DOES NOT IMPLY ANY CHANGE IN OUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL ITSELF. WE WOULD ALSO POINT OUT THE US WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE TO THE PROPOSED EXPERTS' STUDY, AND (IF WE HAD AN INDICATION OF SIMILAR VIEWS FROM THE SOVIETS) WE WOULD ADD THAT NEITHER WOULD THE ONLY OTHER STATE WITH A VERIFICATION SATELLITE.

6. AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD AS BRITISH AND GERMANS TO MAKE PARALLEL DEMARCHES. WE WOULD ALSO CONSULT WITH THE SOVIETS TO DETERMINE THEIR DISPOSITION AND, IF IT APPEARED FAVOURABLE, ASK THEM TO MAKE A SIMILAR APPROACH.

7. WE WOULD ALSO CONVEY TO THE FRENCH THAT OUR COMMENTS IN REPLY TO A REQUEST FROM THE SYG WOULD BEAR DIRECTLY AND NEGATIVELY ON THE FEASABILITY OF THEIR PROPOSAL.

THAT REPLY WOULD GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET MAXIMUM CIRCULATION FOR OUR REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE VERIFICATION SATELLITE PROPOSAL.

8. IN ADDITION TO SERVING OUR INTERESTS IN THIS MANNER, WE BELIEVE THE APPROACH TO THE FRENCH WE HAVE RECOMMENDED, EVEN IF IT WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO THEM, WOULD AT LEAST INDICATE THAT WE HAD GENUINELY SOUGHT A COMPROMISE SOLUTION. THIS APPROACH FURTHERMORE OFFERS A FEASIBLE ROAD AWAY FROM A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO ALLIES THAT INEVITABLY WOULD HOLD SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR COOPERATION IN MANY UNRELATED AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. LEONARD

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